

# YOUNG JAZZ ENSEMBLE

# Deck the Halls

TRADITIONAL

Arranged by MIKE COLLINS-DOWDEN

## INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor	1st Trombone
1st E $\flat$ Alto Saxophone	2nd Trombone
2nd E $\flat$ Alto Saxophone	3rd Trombone (Optional)
1st B $\flat$ Tenor Saxophone	4th Trombone (Optional)
2nd B $\flat$ Tenor Saxophone	Guitar Chords
E $\flat$ Baritone Saxophone (Optional)	Guitar (Optional)
1st B $\flat$ Trumpet	Piano
2nd B $\flat$ Trumpet	Bass
3rd B $\flat$ Trumpet	Drums
4th B $\flat$ Trumpet (Optional)	

## Optional/Alternate Parts

C Flute  
B $\flat$  Clarinet  
Vibraphone  
Tuba (Doubles Bass)  
Horn in F (Doubles 1st Trombone)  
1st Baritone Horn T.C./B $\flat$  Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 1st Trombone)  
2nd Baritone Horn T.C./B $\flat$  Tenor Saxophone (Doubles 2nd Trombone)

## NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

"Deck the Halls" is a traditional Christmas carol, based on a sixteenth-century Welsh song and first published with lyrics in 1866. For my arrangement, I chose to set the tune to a calypso beat, a musical style originating in Trinidad and Tobago that became popular in the United States during the 1950s. The best-known calypso-influenced jazz tune is Sonny Rollins's "St. Thomas," which I recommend playing for your students to give them a feel for the style.

The backbone of calypso rhythm is the repeated clavé pattern that the rhythm section plays throughout this arrangement:



All rhythm section members should strive for a light, relaxed sound and try to lock in with the drummer's continuous bass/hi-hat quarter notes. The written drum fills are only suggestions, and the drummer should feel free to improvise his or her own, as long as a relaxed and somewhat authentic style is maintained.

Wind players should also play lightly throughout the piece, being careful not to tongue too hard on the short articulations. Listening to Sonny Rollins's articulations on "St. Thomas" will help with this. Dynamically, the climax of the arrangement occurs at measure 72. Make sure your students play very softly starting at measure 58 so they have plenty of room to crescendo.

For young bands, the most challenging aspect of the piece will be the syncopated rhythms, especially this recurring rhythm in the melody:



I suggest having your students write out the counting for this rhythm and practice chanting it until they're able to correctly place all the off beats. Hearing you sing the words of the song and then echoing them can also help the students learn the rhythm.

Solos at measure 42 can be opened up to give more students an opportunity to improvise. The entire solo can be played with the concert E $\flat$  major scale, and with only two chords, this could be a great opportunity to introduce improvising over simple changes.

Regarding articulation, the *staccato* is of course played short, but not too short or clipped. The *marcato* (▲) notes are played detached, accented, and for their full values. I also suggest that the ensemble give full value to the dotted half notes by using consistent and accurate releases.

Good luck and have fun with my arrangement of "Deck the Halls"!

—Mike Collins-Dowden



**Mike  
Collins-Dowden**

Mike Collins-Dowden received his B.M. in music education and performance from the Eastman School of Music, and M.M. in music education from Temple University. Mike currently teaches elementary band and middle school jazz band in Glenview, IL. As a music educator, he also teaches jazz at the Birch Creek Music Performance Center in Egg Harbor, WI, and works as a festival clinician throughout the Midwest. As a musician, he performs freelance in the Chicago area on bass trombone and guitar. He specializes in writing music for young bands and enjoys writing music for his own students to perform.

CONDUCTOR  
41120S

# DECK THE HALLS

Traditional  
Arranged by Mike Collins-Dowden

MEDIUM-FAST CALYPSO  $\text{♩} = 188 - 150$

C FLUTE (OPTIONAL)

1ST E♭ ALTO SAXOPHONE

2ND E♭ ALTO SAXOPHONE

1ST B♭ TENOR SAXOPHONE

2ND B♭ TENOR SAXOPHONE

E♭ BARITONE SAXOPHONE (OPTIONAL)

1ST B♭ TRUMPET

2ND B♭ TRUMPET

3RD B♭ TRUMPET

4TH B♭ TRUMPET (OPTIONAL)

1ST TROMBONE

2ND TROMBONE

3RD TROMBONE (OPTIONAL)

4TH TROMBONE (OPTIONAL)

GUITAR (OPTIONAL)

PIANO

BASS

DRUMS

CRASH CYM.

FILL

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

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Musical score for CONDUCTOR, featuring parts for FLUTE, ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, BARI., TPT. 1, TPT. 2, TPT. 3, TPT. 4, TBN. 1, TBN. 2, TBN. 3, TBN. 4, GRE., PNO., BASS, and DRUMS. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *mf* and *f*. Performance instructions include *(w/ TPT. & TEN.)* and *(w/ TPT. & TENOZ)*. The score is divided into measures numbered 9 through 16.

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FLUTE

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TEN. 1

TEN. 2

TEN. 3

TEN. 4

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

UNISON SOLI

18 (4/5) (SINGS)

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

CRASH Cym.

FLUTE

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

TBN. 4

GRG.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

**Preview Only**  
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25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

*musical notation details:*  
 - Flute, Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Baritone, Trombone 1-4, and Bass parts feature notes with accents and slurs.  
 - Trumpets 1-4 and Trombones 1-4 include "UNISON SOLI" markings.  
 - Piano part includes chord symbols: B9, Eb9, E7b9, G13, Eb9, B13, E7b9, G13.  
 - Drum part includes "FILL" and "Ride" markings.  
 - A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page, with the text "Legal Use Requires Purchase" below it.

FLUTE

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TPT. 1

TPT. 2

TPT. 3

TPT. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

TBN. 4

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

UNISON SOLI

To CODA

CRASH Cymb.

34 35 36 37 38 39 40

42

Musical score for CONDUCTOR, featuring parts for FLUTE, ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, BARI., TRP. 1, TRP. 2, TRP. 3, TRP. 4, TON. 1, TON. 2, TON. 3, TON. 4, GTR., PNO., BASS, and DRUMS. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'F SOLO ME' and 'FILL RIDE CYM'. A large red watermark 'Preview Only Requires Purchase' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

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41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48



CONDUCTOR

DECK THE HALLS

FLUTE

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TEN. 1

TEN. 2

TEN. 3

TEN. 4

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

50 Solo

END SOLO

CRASH CYM.

FILL

58

FLUTE

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI. (w/TONG.)

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TEN. 1 UNISON SOLI

TEN. 2 UNISON SOLI

TEN. 3 UNISON SOLI

TEN. 4 UNISON SOLI

GR. (w/SAXES)

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

2

58

59

60

61

62

63

64

65

*Preview Only*

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FLUTE

ALTO 1

ALTO 2

TENOR 1

TENOR 2

BARI.

TRP. 1

TRP. 2

TRP. 3

TRP. 4

TBN. 1

TBN. 2

TBN. 3

TBN. 4

GTR.

PNO.

BASS

DRUMS

66

67

68

69

70

71

72

73

CRASH CYN.

FILL

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Musical score for CONDUCTOR, featuring parts for FLUTE, ALTO 1, ALTO 2, TENOR 1, TENOR 2, BARI., TRP. 1, TRP. 2, TRP. 3, TRP. 4, TBN. 1, TBN. 2, TBN. 3, TBN. 4, Gtr., PNO., BASS, and DRUMS. The score includes dynamic markings such as *p* and *f*, and performance instructions like "SOLO FILL" and "CRASH CYN.".

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